

# GREAT PLAINS INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER

## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDE # 2

TITLE: Radio Communications Procedures

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 27, 2003

UPDATED: October 2018

INTENT: To describe basic radio communications procedures for Operations personnel, and Great Plains Interagency Dispatch Center (GPC). Assure consistent, clear radio communication and effective standardized emergency incident communications.

### PROCEDURE

All GPC and the cooperating agencies shall use radios in a manner that assures effective communication and that maximizes the availability of airtime for incident use.

#### 1. Radio Protocol

1.1. Limit radio communications to exchanges not better handled by telephone or in person. All radio communication should be clear text, brief and to the point. Ten codes are prohibited.

1.2. Radio transmissions are made and received in the following manner:

- a. Great Plains Dispatch Black Hills Engine 664
- b. Black Hills Engine 664 Great Plains Dispatch go ahead
- c. Black Hills Engine 664 en-route to Lookout RX
- d. Copy en-route to Lookout RX at 0946
- e. Black Hills Engine 664 clear
- f. GPC (current time)

1.3. Conduct radio exchanges in the above manner except when several exchanges are made following the initial message, the agency identifier may be dropped if no confusion of units will occur.

#### 2. Incident Communications

2.1. Use Tone2 on multi-select 2 (Msel 2) Radio to alert the field of a smoke report.

2.2. Responding units will monitor command frequencies as identified by the IA dispatcher and on Runcards for initial report on conditions.

2.3. Initial report on conditions is addressed to GPC, but is made to all responding units. GPC shall request unclear transmissions be repeated.

2.4. GPC will briefly acknowledge report by repeating the arrival, basic report on conditions, IC's name, mode of operation, command and tactical frequencies, and resource requests.

2.5. An initial size up will be reported to GPC via the command frequency.

### 3. Frequencies

To ensure responding units can communicate with GPC and with each other command and tactical frequencies are divided by response zones and are identified on the run cards. GPC will assign command frequencies for each incident during the initial response.

3.1 Initial dispatch will be made in the following manner

- a. Ensure that your MSL2 is set up for the appropriate response zone.
- b. Press the alert tone 2
- c. Dispatch initial resources identified per the FLOPS.
- d. Give description of location and any other pertinent information.
- e. Identify the command frequency listed on the run card

*“Alert” – BKF662, SDS660 respond to Incident # 1 tentative location 1N 6E sec 7 for a grass fire. RP states it is in the west bound lane of HWY 16, Command will be on CZ Seth”*

The IC and/ or GPC may designate an alternate command frequency; this will be based on the fire location. If a change occurs, GPC will notify all units responding of the command frequency change. If frequencies become overloaded GPC will establish priorities to ensure safety of all units and may request that a change in frequencies be made.

### 4. Emergency Traffic

4.1 If there is an emergency let GPC know over the command frequency and they will make every attempt to clear the channel for the emergency traffic. The channel will remain clear for all emergency traffic until the emergency is declared over and normal traffic can resume.